

The Christmas Problem

John 3:16
Part 2

The Context: Darkness

- The context into which Christ comes is a deadly **Spiritual** darkness_(Isaiah 9:2,6, Isaiah 59:9-13).
- The world wants us to misunderstand the real battle of Christmas.
 - The battle is not over not political correctness.
 - It is a battle for the eternal souls of people lost in darkness.
- There is great spiritual darkness all **Around** us (Gal. 3:22, John 3:19).
- There is great spiritual darkness **Within** us (Jer. 17:9, Rom. 3:10-17).

The Consequence: Perishing

- The consequence of spiritual darkness is to **Perish** in sin.
- 1.) To perish is to be **Condemned** by God (John 3:18).
- 2.) To perish mean is to suffer the wrath of God (John 3:36, Rom. 2:8).
- 3.) To perish means to suffer unending, irreversible **Torment** (Mat. 25:4).
 - Upon death, the person without Christ is sent to Hades, which is the intermediate state for unbelievers (Luke 16:22-31).
 - At the end of Christ's millennial reign, souls in Hades will be resurrected to face final judgment and eternal punishment in hell (Revelation 20:4-15).
- 4.) To perish means to be forever alienated from the **Glory** of God (2 Thes. 1:7-10).

The Cure: Christ

- The only light that can break our darkness is **Jesus Christ**.
- John Piper – Rejecting [God] and enjoying other things more than Him ... are infinite insults because he is an infinite treasure. And an infinite insult ... deserves infinite punishment.”

-- The better we see the grievousness of our sin and the tragic fate of our darkness, the more brilliantly we will see the light of Christ (John 8:12, John 12:46, Ephesians 5:8).